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MEDIA RELEASE

QUOTES ATTRIBUTABLE TO ANGELA BURROUGHS, AEU ACT BRANCH PRESIDENT, ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH

"I congratulate Minister Stephen-Smith on her appointment and look forward to working with her to strengthen ACT public education. ACT educators have been clear about what they need: enough teachers so classes stop being split up or cancelled at short notice, and the resources so every student gets the support they need to succeed."

"Minister Berry has left Minister Stephen-Smith with a clear challenge. She said our public schools can still have the highest paid educators in the country with nation-leading pay and conditions. We agree, and there is no time left to waste. This government's protracted approach to bargaining has already disrupted schools and educators for too long. It's time to finalise an offer that addresses our claims, delivers on the Government's commitments, and lets everyone get on with the job of educating ACT students."

"Minister Stephen-Smith has an opportunity to turn election commitments into real outcomes for educators, students and families. The choices made in the coming months will determine whether the ACT continues to lead the nation or falls behind."

"The opportunities are pressing and real. Today, there is an urgent hearing in the Fair Work Commission regarding school assistant bargaining that the Minister could resolve immediately."

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